

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5-16 are pending. Claims 1,2, and 11-16 are amended.

Claims 1-3 and 5-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Key, U.S. Patent No. 4,183,610. Claims 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.B. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Key in view of Endo (US 5,569,390). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the following reasons, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1 and 2 include, among other limitations, "a pressure retaining part configured to exert a first elastic force for holding the press-fit section press-fitted into the through-hole," and "an introducing part configured to exert a second elastic force having a second intensity lower than a first intensity of the first elastic force." Key does not teach the above limitations.

Rather, the shroud 12 of Key differs from an introducing part of the press-fit section of the press-fit terminal as claimed in claims 1 and 2 set forth above. For example, as shown in FIG. 2A, the introducing part is "press-fitted into and held by a through-hole." Also, as claimed, the introducing part is "configured to exert a second elastic force having a second intensity lower than a first intensity of the first elastic force." In contrast, the shroud 12 of Key wraps around the press-fit sections 18 and cannot be inserted into and held by the through-hole. Moreover, the shroud 12 of Key is not "configured to exert a second elastic force having a second intensity lower than a first intensity of the first elastic force." In fact, if any, the connection apparatus of Key has only one part configured to exert an elastic force, and that is the C-shaped segment 28. (See, FIGs. 3 and 4, col. 4, lines 19-32). Therefore, amended claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by Key.

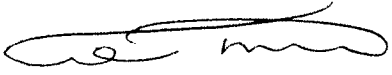
In view of the above, Applicant submits that Key does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1 or claim 2. Claims 3 and 5-16 that depend on claims 1 and 2, respectively also are

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patentable over the cited reference for the reasons set forth above. In addition, these dependent claims are patentable over the reference for the additional limitations that these claims contain.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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